have been released for construction of shelter Homes in the Tamil Nadu State.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Balika Samridhi Yojana in Karnataka

3172. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for release of funds under Balika Samridhi Yojana (BSY) to Karnataka is lying pending with Government; and

(b) if so, the amount likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

Funds for Swayamsidha scheme in Karnataka

3173. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from Karnataka Government for sanction of funds under Swayamsidha scheme pending with Central Government; and

(b) if so, the status of the proposal and the proposed action of the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Total grant admissible to Government of Karnataka under Swayamsidha Scheme is Rs. 332.00 lakhs and the entire amount has already been sanctioned to the State Government.

Malnutrition in Children

3174. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is growing percentage of malnutrition problems among children in the country, particularly in the Maharashtra State for the last two years;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken so far by Government for tackling this issue in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) According to studies, the underweight prevalence among children declined from 53.4% [National Family Health Survey-1:1992-93] to 47% [National Family Health Survey-2: 1998-99] in the country. In the State of Maharashtra, the prevalence of underweight in children declined from 54.2% to 49.6% during this period.

(b) and (c) The problem of malnutrition is multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature which needs to be tackled through holistic coordinated interventions in areas of food security, sanitation and safe drinking water, nutrition, family welfare and poverty alleviation.

To tackle the problem of malnutrition, the Government of India has introduced several programmes being implemented by various Ministries/ Departments which include:

(i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme;

(ii) National Nutritional Anaemia Control Programme, (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare);

(iii) National Prophylaxis Programme against Blindness due to Vitamin-A, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);

(iv) National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme, (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare);

(v) Reproductive and Child Health Programme, (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare);

(vi) Poverty Alleviation Programme, (Ministry of Rural Development);

(vii) National Programme for Nutritional support to Primary Education (Mid-day Meal Scheme), (Department of Elementary Education and Literacy);

(viii) Targeted Public Distribution System, (Department of Food and Consumer Affairs);

(ix) A Pilot project in 51 districts to provide free foodgrains to undernourished adolescent girls and pregnant and nursing mothers, (Planning Commission);

(x) National Rural Health Mission (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare).

In so far as Ministry of Women and Child Development is concerned it is administering ICDS Scheme which aims at holistic development of children below the age of 6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers. The steps taken in the recent past to increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services under the Scheme include:

- Expansion of the Scheme from existing 5652 Projects and 7.54 lakh Anganwadi centres to 6118 Projects and 9.46 lakh Anganwadi Centres which includes 416 Projects and 78551 Anganwadi Centres in Maharashtra.
- Doubling of financial norms for supplementary nutrition.
- Sharing of 50% cost of supplementary nutrition with the States.
- Constant emphasis on States to:
  - Ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms;
  - Ensure effective convergence of health, nutrition, education and safe drinking water services under various programmes.

Child-Care in the Tenth Plan

†3175. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that special emphasis has been given in the Tenth five year Plan for implementing the idea and objectives of child welfare, child development and child safety;

(b) whether it is also a fact that National Child Charter and National Child Action Plan have been implemented in February, 2004 and August, 2005 respectively; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith assessment and details of status of achievement and outcome, State-wise in view of target fixed for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.